Sumter, which was by far the most important work Nothing but the extraordinary excitement under which the South Carolina politicians were laboring, can account for the fact that Messrs. Miles and Keitt were able to set down in writing their belief that Mr. Buchanan ever agreed to be put in such a ridiculous position.

But Messrs. Miles and Keitt have told us in the same paper that Mr. Buchanan "did not like the word ' provided'" in the paper which they handed him,[1] " because (he said) it looked as if we were binding him, while avowing that we had no authority to commit the convention. We told him that we did not so understand it. We were expressing our convictions and belief, predicated upon the maintenance of a certain condition of things, which maintenance was absolutely and entirely in his power. If he maintained such condition, then we believed that collision would be avoided until the attempt at a peaceable negotiation had failed. If he did not, then we solemnly assured him that we believed that collision must inevitably and at once be precipitated. He seemed satisfied, and said it was not his intention to send reinforcements or make any change."[2]

So far, certainly, there is nothing to show any agreement of any kind between the

representatives from South Carolina and the President. On the contrary, by the showing of the representatives themselves, the President had objected to the proviso with

[1] " Provided that no reinforcements shall be sent into tthose forts, and their relative military status shall remain as at present."—I W. R., 126.

[s] I W. R., 126.